

NEWS

2003 Shrine Bowl gets reinforcements from RS Columbia

Sgt. Eric R. Lucero
MPA, RS COLUMBIA

Once a year, the Shrine Association of the Carolinas hosts an all-star, high-school football game to benefit burn victims and crippled children. The proceeds gained from this year’s game, played in Rock Hill, will help eradicate the medical costs for more than 15,000 outpatient clinic visits and more than 15,500 physical therapy visits at the Shrine hospital in Greenville.

This year, the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas received a very welcome assist in the form of about 30 Marines from Recruiting Station Columbia.

The Marines offered their services for the weekend to the Shrine Association. The Shriners wasted no time putting the Marines to work, having them perform a variety of tasks from boiling peanuts for concession stands to bagging lunches. Some Marines were put to work selling programs and other Shrine Bowl memorabilia.

The nearly 300 hours of manpower donated by the Marines did not go unnoticed by the Shriners or the visitors to the game.

“I don’t know what we would have done without them,” said Mary Beth Jacobs, a Shrine volunteer. “Before they arrived we were well behind schedule and then all of a sudden, all these young Marines were around and just like that, we were finished.

“To see young men like this come out and sacrifice the way they do without asking for anything in return makes me proud.”

Rather than rest after each task was completed, the Marines simply moved on to the next, many times going out of their way to look for more work.

Gunnery Sgt. Nikita T. Wallace, staff non-commissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation Rock Hill, repeated “Whatever they need done,” time after time. “That’s why we’re here.”

Rather than quitting once the game started, the Marines simply worked in shifts. Most worked the concession stands while the others enjoyed the game and interacted with visitors in the stands.

“I was surprised to see the Marines at the game,” said Susan Worth, a Rock Hill native. “I was even more surprised when I found out they were there voluntarily. To get a young man in today’s world to give up his weekend without asking for anything in return says a lot about what [the] Marines do to a young man. Where do I sign my son up?”

Once the game was over, the Marines policed their areas, and held a brief formation to ensure accountability before bidding farewell to the Shriners and their new friends.

To say the Marines would be welcome at next year’s game would be an understatement.



Sgt. Eric R. Lucero
Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Combs, a senior drill instructor assigned to 2nd RTBn. chats with another Marine during the 2003 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in Rock Hill. Combs spoke with more than 200 young men and women about the rigors of recruit training while at the game.

In all, the nearly 300 hours worked by the Marines resulted in the Shrine Association saving more than \$2,000 in manpower, allowing that money to go where it is needed most, the hospitals and physical therapy clinics. “I don’t care much about the money

we saved with the Marines here,” said Joseph Tonkin, nobleman. “What those young men and women brought to the table today was an unparalleled work ethic with good spirits to match. I hope we seem them again next year.”

The 32 Marines from RSS Rock Hill and RSS Spartanburg are already planning to make the Shrine Bowl an annual event and are currently planning bigger and better things for next year’s game scheduled in Spartanburg.



Special to The Boot
John Perry, asset manager for Tri-Command Military Housing, presents a \$1,000 certificate on behalf of TCMH to Staff Sgt. Richard Brumage, a Charlie Co. drill instructor, and his wife, Holly, during a luncheon ceremony Jan. 22.

Depot residents receive savings bonds for New Year’s baby

Cpl. Jennifer Brofer
STAFF WRITER

Holly M. Brumage, wife of Staff Sgt. Richard L. Brumage, a Charlie Co. drill instructor, gave birth to their 7-pound, 8-ounce daughter, Cadence Julie Brumage, at 9:36 a.m., Jan. 1, at Beaufort Memorial Hospital, making her the first baby to be born in 2004 in the Tri-Command area.

After hearing the good news, John Perry, asset manager for Tri-Command Military Housing, began soliciting various financial institutions within Beaufort and taking up a collection of \$100 savings bonds to donate to the couple to help with future expenses.

In all, Perry collected \$1,000 and presented the certificate to the new parents on behalf of TCMH in a luncheon ceremony at the MCAS Beaufort Bachelor Officer’s Quarters conference room Jan. 22.

Holly, who resides in a mobile home in Argonne Park with her husband and two children, said she and her husband had an inkling that they were going to receive something to aid with the new baby, but had no idea how far the generosity would go.

“They told me they had a surprise for me, and I had a hunch,” she said, “But I didn’t know it was going to be that much, or even what it was, so I was very excited.”

“I think it’s very generous for them do to that for service members,” added Staff Sgt. Brumage. “For them to give a \$1,000 to someone they don’t even know, I

“To think that, with the interest that builds up over time, our child’s tuition can be paid in full ... that’ll save us a lot of money and heartache about having enough money to send our kids to college.”
-Staff Sgt. Richard L. Brumage, father of New Year’s baby

think that’s great. It was just by the luck of the draw that our baby was born on January 1.”

Perry said he collected the bonds in an effort to do something nice for members of the community, and in the hopes that it would become a memorable occasion for the family.

“For the first baby born in each year, we and the financial community of the Greater Beaufort area wanted to do a little something special for them,” said Perry. “We plan to make this a tradition. Over the course of the years, they’ll be able to remember this fond event, and, in 17 or 18 years, refund that certificate and hopefully use it wisely.”

The Brumages said they will use the money to help pay the costs of their daughter’s college tuition, which will alleviate a lot of the burdens that go along with a child’s college expenses.

“We’ve already started saving for our 3-year-old son [Colin], so that money will come in handy for her,” she said.

“To think that, with the interest that builds up over time, our child’s tuition can be paid in full ... that’ll save us a lot of money and heartache about having enough money to send our kids to college,” added Staff Sgt. Brumage.

In order to fulfill their purpose of “providing quality communities with quality homes,” Perry and other representatives of TCMH try to perform good deeds for service members who reside in the Tri-Command community, he said.

“We want it to be their home, not just a house,” said Perry. “We want to make it memorable for them.”

The New Year’s baby bond donation is one more good deed they have added to their list.

“This is the first year we’ve done it, and we still have 50 years to go,” added Perry.

Bonds were donated by Branch Bank & Trust, Bank of America, First National Bank, Islands Community Bank, Lowcountry National Bank, MCAS Beaufort Federal Credit Union, Navy Federal Credit Union, Palmetto State Bank, Regions Bank and Wachovia.

MEETING,
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without our civilian workforce. It’s that simple,” he said. “We couldn’t get the time to make Marines without the wonderful, dedicated men and women who are here. That’s why it’s important that we nurture them and keep them informed because they play an integral part of recruiting and recruit training.”

For the first meeting, guest speaker Nancy Brandau, director of Human Resources,

informed the civilians of upcoming changes and how it will affect them, such as the implementation of a new personnel and promotion system, as well as the Base Realignment and Closure process.

Aside from the training the civilians already received, on each table were slips of paper for them to give suggestions on what topics they would like covered during the next meeting.

The meetings will be held

every three months and after the second breakfast a survey will be conducted to determine if civilians believe them to be beneficial, said Nix.

“I think it’s a good idea,” said Shirley Patterson, driver’s improvement education instructor for Depot Safety. “It brings us all together, and it allows us to see new faces and to meet those people who we rarely get to see aboard the Depot.”

“I look forward to the next one,” she added.